

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

GRANDSTAFF 

ROKOSCH 

THOMPSON

CHILCOTT 

DRISCOLL

PLETTENBERG (Clerk & Recorder)

Members Present.....Commissioner Carlotta Grandstaff,
Commissioner Jim Rokosch, Commissioner Alan Thompson, Commissioner Greg
Chilcott and Commissioner Kathleen Driscoll

Date.....December 5, 2008

Minutes.....Beth Perkins

► The Board met for discussion and possible decision on PILT allocation. Present were Clerk & Recorder Regina Plettenberg, RCEDA Director Julie Foster, I.T. Director Joe Frohlich, GIS Supervisor Ken Miller, Sheriff Chris Hoffman, Under Sheriff Kevin McConnell, Administrative Assistant Glenda Wiles, Comptroller Jana Exner, Internal Auditor Klarryse Murphy, Red Caldwell and Human Resources Director Robert Jenni.

Commissioner Grandstaff called the meeting to order. She stated \$882,221 was received for PILT funding. Commissioner Rokosch recommended looking at the reserve levels and prepare for a long economic downturn. He recapped the budget process and the staff requests. Commissioner Chilcott suggested putting the money into a rainy day fund. He discussed being limited by law of having 33% for reserves. He stated the need is to build reserves to maintain the level of service. Commissioner Thompson stated it is an interesting situation with PILT over the past years. He has argued for several years for federal government to pay their share with PILT. PILT can disappear at the end of this four year time period. He agreed with Commissioner Chilcott to place these funds into the reserve account. There may be some critical needs to be filled.

Klarryse stated with appropriations and including grant funding the total in reserves is \$2 million. It is at 5%. Commissioner Driscoll stated she agrees with Commissioner Thompson for the rainy day fund. She stated she would like one employee facing a lay off to be kept using some PILT funds. She stated another aspect is the economic development of this valley. She stated there is a need for different types of jobs in the community. She also spoke of the Capital Improvement Plan and an efficiency review of

the departments. Commissioner Grandstaff stated she is thinking of reserves and advocated a Capital Improvement Plan to implement impact fees. She stated S.A.F.E. lost a grant and will need some help. She discussed hiring an enforcement officer for civil complaints and some staff requests. She stated the Museum requested getting back their 11.5% cut, funding of one employee position, would like to put back some money into the capital plan for computers for I.T. She discussed the need of the grandstands for Fairgrounds. She stated after the Victor incident, Sheriff will also need some additional funds.

Klarryse reviewed debt reduction. She stated there are some lower loans and if they could be paid off it would generate funds into the general operating funds. She reviewed several small loans with the Board and interest rates. Commissioner Chilcott suggested putting \$500,000 into the reserve account. Commissioner Rokosch stated it should be half of the funds.

Sheriff Hoffman discussed where they are at for the end of the year including the Victor situation and mental health costs. He reviewed those costs with the Board including unanticipated expenditures. He requested the 11.5% budget cut be reinstated to his operating budget. Commissioner Grandstaff suggested tallying the debt that could be paid off to see what be put back into the operating budgets. Commissioner Thompson stated he would not be in favor of paying off the debts due to the interest rates. He explained if the debt is paid and we have to go back out and borrow, it may be at a higher interest rate.

Joe Frohlich expressed his concerns with next budget year for computer replacement funds. He stated right now the computers are in good working order but will need some replacement next year. He stated the fund got cut \$40,000 which is a strain on his department. He discussed being short \$7,000 for a generator for the administrative building.

Julie Foster gave her ideas for expanding the funds. She stated GSK did their expansion with \$3.3 million at the tax base. She discussed \$5 million dollars in projects. She believes it is doable with this money to turn it into the money needed. She suggested forming a group for the numbers. Commissioner Driscoll stated she agrees with Julie and stated she needs more information. Commissioner Grandstaff suggested Commissioner Chilcott, Commissioner Driscoll, Klarryse, and Julie form this group.

Red Caldwell stated he is here to represent the Museum. He stated the budget cut they received is small relative to dollars but huge to their budget. He stated the Museum Board adopted a five year vision plan. He requested the 11.5% be reinstated to their budget. There are no medical benefits offered to their staff.

Regina stated she is not requesting any funds for this year. She expressed her frustration with the Black Mountain Software. She stated CSA software is used in the bigger counties. Commissioner Driscoll asked how much the software would cost. Regina replied she does not have the cost but would get it.

Commissioner Rokosch stated more information needs to be compiled before a decision is made. Commissioner Grandstaff requested a decision on the employee facing lay off. Commissioner Rokosch stated he is generally not in favor of funding positions with soft money. He stated this position does have the potential for recovery and is an exception. Commissioner Driscoll stated with the efficiency audit and the potential levy could provide funding for the position.

Commissioner Driscoll requested a decision on the amount to place into reserves. Klarryse reviewed the individual reserve funds and how the \$500,000 should be divided. She will provide a schedule of debt reduction for the Board, the employee position, reserves by fund and 11.5% for public safety.